Pollution due to Cement Plants in the Country

1195. SHRI T. CHANDRASEKHAR REDDY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to conduct a comprehensive assessment of pollution problems in the country's cement plants and formulate measures for reducing dust emission and abetment of noise in specific cases; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI): (a) and (b) Based on assessment of the pollution problems of the Cement Plants in the country, emission standards have been specified under the provisions of the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981. A Task Force has been set up to check the levels of pollution from different units and to work out a time-table for compliance of the standards. Measures for noise abatement are being taken under the provisions of the Factories Act and civic laws.

Freedom fighters granted Pension Under the Central Government Scheme

1196. SHRI ADINARAYANA REDDY: Will the Finister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of freedom fighters who have been granted pension so far in the country under the Central Government scheme; and

(b) how many cases of freedom fighters are still pending with Government for disposal?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. B. CHAVAN): (a) and (b) As on 31st January, 1986, 1,37,794 freedom fighters and the dependents of deceased freedom fighters have been sanctioned pension under the Central Pension Scheme. As on 31st January, 1986 75,130 cases are yet to be finalised.

Legislation for free access to official documents

1197. PROF. C. LAKSHMANNA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that for over 200 years Sweden has provided open and easy access to official documents and full information to any citizen about administrative activities of the peoples' democratic Government under the freedom of Press Act; and

(b) whether similar legislation exists in this country and if not, whether such legislation is proposed to be enacted in overall national interest and principle of open Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INTERNAL SECURITY (SHRI ARUN NEHRU): (a) According to information available, the first Freedom of Press Act was introduced in Sweden in 1766.

(b) There is no similar law in India and there is no proposal before the Government to have such a legislation.

Financial assistance to U.P. Government

1198. SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Uttar Pradesh Government urged the Central Government to make a special provision of financial assistance for the eastern districts of the State on the pattern of grant for the hilly regions in the State; and